Docket No. 1377-0170P

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method for identifying a gene ~~having a role in~~ **which may be involved with** the presentation of diabetic nephropathy, which method comprises

culturing mesangial cells in a medium in the presence of **transforming growth factor ß1 (TGF-ß1) and** a concentration of glucose sufficient to induce differential expression of gene susceptible to such differential expression;

and identifying the gene so induced by suppression subtractive hybridization.

2. (original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the mesangial cells are cultured in the presence of a concentration of glucose sufficient to induce up-regulation of a gene susceptible to such up-regulation.

3. (previously amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the concentration of glucose is greater than 5 mM.

4. (previously amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the mesangial cells are subjected to mechanical strain.

5. (cancelled)

6. (previously amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the possibility of differential expression due to hyperosmolarity is excluded.

7. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the gene so differently expressed is a gene of SEQ ID NO:1 ~~which includes a sequence selected from the group consisting of:~~

~~1) SEQ ID NOS: 1-3;~~

~~2) SEQ ID NO:4;~~

~~3) SEQ ID NO:5; and~~

~~4) SEQ ID NO:6~~.

8. (previously amended, withdrawn) Use of a gene identified by a method according to Claim 1, as a diagnostic marker for the progression and presentation of diabetic nephropathy.

9. (previously amended, withdrawn) Use of a gene identified by a method according to Claim 1, as an index of disease activity and the rate of progression of diabetic nephropathy.

10. (previously amended, withdrawn) Use of a gene identified by a method according to Claim 1, as a basis for identifying drugs for use in the prevention and/or therapy of diabetic nephropathy.

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11. (currently amended) ~~A~~ **An isolated gene encoded by a** sequence **of SEQ ID NO:1** ~~selected from any one of SEQ IDS NOS:1-3, 5 and 6 according to Claim 7~~.